[22nd March 1955

Industrial co-operatives for handloom weavers.

* 1530 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have sent any proposals to the Union Government relating to the establishment of industrial co-operatives for handloom weavers in Malabar and Madurai to be financed from the Cess Fund ;

(*b*) if so, what they are and the amount to be financed from the Cess Fund ; and

(*c*) what further action, if any, has been taken so far on the proposals.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes Sir.

" (*b*) Schemes for the conversion of the Lokanath Weaving Factory at Chowa and the Kausalya Weaving Factory at Thottada in the Malabar district and the Mohan Ram and Company, Madurai, into industrial co-operatives have been approved by the Government of India for being financed from the Cess Fund. A sum of Rs. 1, 12,302-8-0 has been sanctioned by the Government of India for the two industrial co-operatives in Malabar as interest free loan and a similar loan of Rs. 42,237-8-0 has been sanctioned for the industrial co-operative at Madurai.

" (*c*) Orders for implementing all the three schemes have been issued. The Registrar is making arrangements to organize the co-operatives and to purchase or take on lease the factories from the proprietors of the concerns."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister how many members are there in the co-operative societies in Cannanore? Formerly there were 1,200 in Chirakkal taluk and now there are only 400. Will the Government be pleased to form more co-operative societies so as to enable more workers to come into the societies and be benefited by these? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" So far as the two factories in Malabar are concerned, I think there are about 175 workers. About extending the scheme, Government will consider the matter."

Misappropriation of funds by the Land Acquisition Tahsildar, Palghat.

* 1531 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Land Acquisition Tahsildar of Palghat, Malabar, has misappropriated a sum of Rs. 35,000 and is now absconding ; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take to recover the amount and to book the concerned person?